

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 and 16-36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

In claim 14, line 2, please delete ", 12, or 13".

Please add the following new claim:

A2 → 37. (New) A DNA sequence encoding a substantially pure peptide which binds to the B-cell epitope of thyroid peroxidase.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 16-36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 14 has been amended to conform to standard U.S. practice and to eliminate improper multiple claim dependencies. New claim 37 has been added corresponding to cancelled claim 28. Claims 11-15 and 37, directed to DNA encoding thyroid peroxidase, vector and host, are active, and correspond to Group IV as set forth in the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated 15 September 1994, in the co-pending parent application Serial No. 08/196,082, of which the present application is a division.

No new matter has been introduced into the specification or claims by this Preliminary Amendment.

It is believed that the claims as amended are in condition for immediate allowance, and early favorable notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.